

The Spirit

Volume III Number 3

December 2006



Doris Kearns Goodwin at *The Spirit* press conference

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR LECTURES ON WAR *Doris Kearns Goodwin Discusses Commanders-in-Chief*

By Amy Tirado and Tara Vafiadou

Arguably, the most difficult job in the world is that of President of the United States. In times of war, the degree of difficulty of that job increases exponentially.

Such was the message of presidential historian and best selling author Doris Kearns Goodwin when she appeared on October 11, 2006 as the keynote speaker at the Third Annual St. Joseph's College Presidential Lecture.

Ms. Goodwin, a Pulitzer Prize winner for *No Ordinary Time: Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt: The American Home Front During World War II*, is also the author of four other books on subjects as diverse as baseball and American political history.

The topic of Ms. Goodwin's lecture was "Presidents at War," a subject she is personally familiar with, having served as adviser to President Lyndon Johnson during the final year of his presidency at the height of the Vietnam War.

In a private press conference with the staff of *The Spirit* held directly before her lecture, Ms. Goodwin answered staff members' questions on a variety of historical issues.

When asked about her feelings about President George W. Bush, she noted that "his presidency started off shakily, but his true character came out after the events of September 11, 2001." It was at that time, she said, that President Bush "found his voice."

For Ms. Goodwin, the topic of the war in Iraq is a very personal one.

Her youngest son is presently in the United States Army which he joined after graduating Harvard University to help in the war on terror.

In response to a question about the most important quality a president must have as commander-in-chief, her answer was, "To articulate a rational for why the country has to go to war."

This, according to Ms. Goodwin, is one of the major problems the president has today. Changing the rational midstream has been more than problematical. The country went to war because of weapons of mass destruction. When none were found, the rational then changed to helping to build a democracy in Iraq. The president was not entirely successful in selling this to the American people, and thus the division in the country today.

As a historian, Mr. Goodwin understands that other presidents have had the same types of difficulties during their administrations. In her book, *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*, she notes that Lincoln's own cabinet were almost totally and vocally divided on what course the Civil War should take.

Lyndon Johnson also faced insurmountable problems in pursuing the war in Vietnam because the anti-war movement (of which she was a part) split the country into either supporting or decrying the war efforts.

"No matter what the outcome," said Ms. Goodwin, "we as the American people have to stay to-

gether and support each other. Maybe the decisions were not the best ones, but since we are now involved, pulling out at this time would be impossible," she added.

Part of the current anti-war sentiment in America is a result of the duration of the conflict. Having defeated the Iraqi army in less than a month, the American people grew to expect similar results in establishing a peace, and that has not been the case. As the public grows more impatient, the mood of the country further sours.

Ms. Goodwin is particularly opposed to the blaming of American fighting men and women for the policies of the government or the military. "Blaming the soldiers who returned from Vietnam was unconscionable; the same holds true for those returning from the Middle East," she said.

The reaction to Ms. Goodwin's lecture was uniformly positive. "She is a great scholar and a fine historian," said Don Reilly, '85. His sentiments were shared by Freshman Raquel Roman, a history major, who said, "I thought she made some very compelling points and her insights into the presidency of Lyndon B. Johnson were very interesting."

With a diverse career as a journalist, professor, historian and writer, Ms. Goodwin still manages to keep a busy lecture schedule.

Her lecture to the students and staff of St. Joseph's College proved to be a scholarly, edifying and entertaining experience for all concerned.

NEW MENTORING PROGRAM PLANNED

By Svetlana Medvedeva

Mentor, the character from Homeric epic, has made the transition into common English usage as a 'guide,' and St. Joseph's new Mentoring Program will provide guides for students in a wide variety of fields and professions.

The St. Joseph's College Mentoring Program will see distinguished alumni volunteering their time to assist undergraduates by giving them advice about careers and professions to enable them to better understand how their educational experience will relate to the real world of jobs and the workplace.

Mentors will also provide strong role models who can offer direction and guidance on an interpersonal level.

The mentors will be there to inspire, encourage and support students and offer guidance on how to achieve success in a career.

At the Alumni Dinner which was held on Tuesday, November 14th in the parlors of Burns Hall, 30 students and 50 alumni who have expressed interest in the program, gathered to discuss the nuts and bolts issues of how students can best be served.

The dinner, planned by Mary Jo Chiara and Frank LaTerra, found students and grads discussing such issues as networking techniques, how to find internships, the relationship between a college major and an actual job and dealing with the challenges of the workplace.

Psychology, business, mathematics—these were just some of the fields represented by St. Joseph's alumni, and according to Director of Counseling, Frank LaTerra, "as students ex-

press interest in other areas, we will find alumni willing to mentor them."

The Mentoring Program is not limited to a particular class. Even though seniors are much closer to seeking employment, mentoring is available to anyone. "Any student who is interested in learning more about various fields through the guidance and support of a mentor can become involved in the program," said Mr. LaTerra.

Fortunately for St. Joseph's, the college has an extensive network of alumni who represent dozens of different fields from banking to medicine to music production to education.

"It's a great thing to see so many graduates express a willingness to extend themselves for their school," said Alumni Assistant Samantha Saines '06. "Building strong ties like these can only benefit our students and the entire college community," she added.

The Mentoring Program is a joint effort of the Alumni Affairs Office, the Office of the Dean of Students and the Counseling Office. All three had input in the planning of the program and ongoing discussions will explore ways in which the program may be expanded in the future.

"I came here because of my interest in music," said junior John Castaldo, "and I think it would be terrific if I could hook up with someone experienced in that profession to offer me advice," he added.

The interest of St. Joseph's alumni all but assures John that there will be someone willing to step forward to serve as his mentor in the coming months of the new Mentoring program.



Students meet with prospective mentors at dinner

EDITORIAL

THE SHAME OF THE IVY LEAGUE

One of the most cherished principles upon which the United States of America was founded is the freedom of speech. Americans from all walks of life believe that except for the few instances of exclusion such as yelling 'Fire!' in a crowded theater when no fire is present, or intentionally defamatory speech, the freedom of expression in this country is sacrosanct.

Flags may be burned, Neo-Nazis can march through Skokie, Illinois and portraits of the Virgin Mary can be smeared with elephant dung—all in the name of our Constitutionally protected freedom of expression. This is our right—and whether we like or dislike what is being said, that right may not be abridged. Except, it seems, in the sacred halls of academe at places like Columbia University, where the only free speech that is tolerated must agree with a particular campus ideology.

Witness the events of October 4, 2006, when the Columbia University Young Republicans invited as a guest speaker, Jim Gilchrist, founder of The Minuteman Project, an organization that attempts to do what the federal government has proven to be impotent about doing: guarding America's borders to prevent illegal immigration.

Shortly after the speech began, protestors representing the Chicano Caucus and the Columbia International Socialist Organization stormed the stage, a fistfight ensued, and security personnel had to evacuate Gilchrist and co-speaker Jerome Corsi.

Why? Because the Minuteman Project believes that American immigration laws should be enforced? Because its members have seen how unrestricted immigration in places like Texas and California have overburdened the health care and education systems to the extent that many emergency rooms in Southern California have had to close? Because they believe that the 10-30 million illegal immigrants in this country will eventually have a catastrophic effect upon the economy of the nation?

America was a nation founded upon laws—but if we wink at those laws and permit their wholesale violation, largely in the name of political gain during election years, then we are nothing more than a bunch of posturing hypocrites.

And all this from Columbia University—the same school that invited the foul-mouthed, strutting bantam Hugo Chavez of Venezuela to address the school—and then treated him with the same adoration as though he were some rock star. All this from the same school that invited Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to speak (but withdrew the invitation because of 'security' issues).

These men can spew hatred against the United States with every phrase that emerges from their mouths—but heaven help the spoiled and craven undergraduates of Columbia if they had to hear an opinion from the right rather than the left. All this from the same school that gave us SDS (Students for a Democratic Society) during the Vietnam War—as radical and America-hating an organization as ever existed on an American college campus.

Columbia president Lee Bollinger said all the right things in a press release he issued on October 6th. You know—things like how the university must be a forum for the open exchange of ideas, that everyone has the right to be heard—you know the drill.

But who is he kidding? One can openly exchange ideas at Columbia only if they are ideologically left of center. There is no place for patriotism or conservative ideas on that campus.

Moreover, Bollinger has, of course, promised a full disciplinary investigation of the incident, vowing to punish those who are responsible for the disruption. Naturally. Would he be expected to say anything else? Despite the fact that full video tapes of the mini-riot are available, let's see if punishment is ever meted out. But we already know that answer, don't we?

It is always fashionable to play the 'race card' in politics. Now, it is becoming increasingly more a part of the American scene to play the 'ethnic card' as well. Anyone who thinks our borders should be secure is now by definition, a racist. Anyone who thinks that people who break our immigration laws should be punished is now a Nazi or a fascist. Name-calling comes so easily to some—whether or not there is a shred of truth behind those names.

So there will be an investigation—and a convenient sweeping under the carpet of facts or spinning of the facts to justify the reprehensible conduct of a bunch of rude and ill-bred thugs, Ivy League or not.

Well, at least we will now be able to see if the Columbia Lion is merely a pussycat. And a 'fraidy' cat to boot.



"Let me introduce our next speaker. Oh yes, he is a Conservative."



Tara Talk

By Tara Vafiadou

IS THIS A GREAT COUNTRY OR WHAT?

Is this a great country, or what? I mean, think about it for a bit. We are a nation of contradictions, of infinite pieces of a puzzle that just doesn't want to allow itself to be put together.

I know, I know, I'm on my soapbox this month. But some things about this place just make me crazy. Like what? Well, take a look:

On the day that President Bush signed historic legislation that authorized a wall to protect our southern border, what was on the front page of two of three NYC papers? "Paris Hilton Bashed in the Face by Irate Rival."

Or how about this: Nancy Pelosi, of the People's Republic of California, demands the resignation of Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert over the Mark Foley malfeasance—but on 5 separate occasions, she voted for Congressman Jerry Studds, for a committee chairmanship *after* he was *tried* and *found guilty* of date rape by the House Ethics committee. But she sure made a lot of noise about Mark Foley, didn't she?

Then there's San Francisco. The city fathers voted against mooring a historic navy aircraft carrier there as a museum (like New York City's USS Intrepid) because they don't like the military's policies about gays in uniform. But, they permit Fleet Week to take place there because it brings in millions of tourist dollars.

If there is anyone I want lecturing America on morality, it sure isn't Teddy Kennedy. But that doesn't stop him, does it!

Blaming a manager like Joe

Torre because his team can't hit, pitch or field in the clutch is like blaming the teacher every time a student fails a test. Imagine a system where teachers get fired when kids—who have the responsibility of learning—flunk a course, even though they didn't read, study or sometimes show up.

I sure loved the way that clown Congressman Charlie Rangel blamed the Bush administration when Corey Lidle's plane hit a building in Manhattan. "See, that's why the Republicans have gotta go," said the esteemed Rangel—"they just can't keep us safe." There's nothing like spouting off before you have all the facts—but that's a political tradition in America.

Don't you think it's amazing that if you burn your leaves during the fall, you can get a summons or even be arrested. But you're untouchable if you burn the American flag!

Let me get this straight: if a high school student wears a T-shirt to school that says "Black Power," he's a civil rights activist. But if you wear a T-shirt that says "White Power," you're a racist guilty of hate speech and you can be expelled.

I'm willing to bet that you can walk into any library and find hundreds of books that have not been taken out even once—but I also bet that when *Jackass 2* comes out on DVD, there won't be a copy left on the shelves. You just have to love the intellectualism of Americans.

I love how America is all for free enterprise and competition—unless it means having Wal-Mart move into the neighborhood. The fact that

they save consumers hundreds to thousands of dollars yearly or that a typical store employs 300 or more people doesn't seem to matter to the politicians. Nor does it matter to them that typically, 7000 people will line up to get those 300 jobs. The politicians are too busy 'protecting' us from the evil machinations of Wal-Mart to notice such things.

It's amazing: right off our coast are several *trillion* cubic feet of natural gas—and enough oil deposits to make OPEC and Middle East Islamo-Fascist states a nasty little footnote in history—but heaven forbid that we should use our own natural resources. It might disturb the eel population or something.

Same with getting energy from windmill farms. There was a perfect place for one right off Hyannis Port, Massachusetts. But ole' Teddy Kennedy nixed that idea. "Not in my backyard," saith the good senator.

Recently, two men were released from prison after serving 17 and 21 year sentences. DNA evidence proved they were innocent. Shouldn't the state compensate them for taking away their lives? Don't those innocent men have any recourse to the courts? I thought that 'redress of grievances' was a First Amendment guarantee. Or isn't being locked up for half a lifetime enough of a grievance?

Well, it's like I said: it's a great country—but someone ought to take a real close look at it and figure out what we are doing wrong. Quickly!

THE SPIRIT

St. Joseph's College
245 Clinton Avenue
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11205

ADVISER

Dr. Howard B. Weiner

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

Christina Ament
Tara Vafiadou

ASSISTANT EDITORS

John Castaldo
Angela Romeo

ARTS EDITOR

Nick Souleotis

PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Svetlana Medvedeva

TECHNICAL EDITOR

Robert Marriello

SPORTS EDITOR

Mark Wilson

MUSIC EDITOR

John Castaldo

CARTOONIST

Amy Tirado

REPORTERS

Ervin Maddox, Gurgit Singh,
Jaclyn Collins, Ana Fernandez,
Marsha Desrosiers, Angela Romeo,
Ashley Pucciarelli, Shifat Noor



MUSICAL NOTES

By John Castaldo

THE ONE AND ONLY LIZA - WITH A Z!

"Start spreadin' the news/I'm leavin' today/ I wanna be a part of it/New York, New York."

Hear those words and automatically people think of Ol' Blue Eyes, "The Chairman of the Board—the late, great Frank Sinatra. Despite the fact that Sinatra made the theme from the film *New York, New York* an anthem to the city, he was not the one who introduced the song.

That introduction belonged to Liza Minelli, who sang it in the film of the same name in which she co-starred with Robert DeNiro.

But if you think of Liza Minelli, there is almost a knee jerk reaction to her: you think pills, booze, failed marriages, middle-aged gay men and campy show tunes.

But how many people really have a knowledge of her career?

Liza Minelli is show business royalty. Born to famed director Vincente Minelli and singer/actress Judy Garland, goddaughter to the legendary Gene Kelly, Liza's pedigree guaranteed a show business career and success almost from the moment she was conceived.

As a teenager, she appeared on her mother's Christmas variety show along with her sister Lorna Luft (*Grease 2*) and her brother Joe Luft. From that appearance, the viewing public could tell that she was destined for greatness.

She would appear on her mother's show semi-regularly singing duets; however, her most memorable appearance with her mother was at the London Palladium. Both women electrified the crowd with renditions of "Gypsy in My Soul" (Liza), "What Now, My Love?" (Judy) and "Hooray for Love" (Liza and Judy).

At one point in that legendary performance, Liza asked her mother, "how can I top that?" to which Judy replied, "You can top that by just hitting better notes."

Liza Minelli's career took off primarily because of her involvement with Broadway musicals, where she met songwriters John Kander and Fred Ebb, who would write all of her hit songs.

Her breakthrough came in the film version of *Cabaret* directed by Bob Fosse. The role of Sally Bowles

earned her an Oscar as Best Actress and she got four signature songs from the score: "Cabaret," "Maybe this Time," "Money, Money," and "Mein Herr."

For Liza Minelli, 1972 was the year she became a legend. Not only was *Cabaret* a hit, but her TV special, *Liza With a Z*, choreographed by Fosse, swept the Tony Awards for her and Music Director Marvin Hamlisch.

At the close of the show, the audience, which included such luminaries as Tony Bennett, gave her a standing ovation—a pattern that has been repeated at almost every one of her performances.

The 1980s saw Liza at the peak of her career. Her Carnegie Hall concert broke all existing attendance records, and she crossed musical lines by recording a techno album with the Pet Shop Boys. She would also perform with Frank Sinatra and Sammy Davis Jr. on *The Ultimate Event*, stealing the show with songs like "All that Jazz" and "The World Goes Round."

In 1989, she received the Living Legend Award at the Grammy Award ceremony.

But the 1990s saw her decline not only personally, but pop music in general was on the wane. There were great moments such as her Radio City Music Hall concert in 1992, and her appearance on *Pavarotti and Friends* in 1994 and 1996. But things were changing.

She became addicted to pills and alcohol. She did a concert in which she performed her mother's songs (something she had avoided for her entire career)—and the critics blasted her because of the noticeable decline in her voice.

A highly publicized failed marriage to producer David Gest would keep her in the forefront of the tabloids for several years.

But none of this can alter the fact that Liza Minelli is one of the great performers in American history.

Want proof? Go on Youtube.com and look up some of her videos. I promise that you will not be disappointed—not when you hear this great musical star belting out some amazing tunes!

Expanded Academic Center Offers Help to All Students

By Tara Vafiadou

Ever changing, ever evolving, when it comes to providing assistance to its students, St. Joseph's College does not stand still.

Thus, the old Writing Center has now metamorphosed into the Academic Center, and it has a new and improved location as well.

Now located in Room 306 on the third floor of the library, the space is larger, more comfortable and it has its own bank of five computers for students to use.

The primary purpose of the Academic Center is to assist all students in one-to-one tutoring. In the past, because of time restrictions, it was not possible to service as many students as needed help. But with expanded hours, virtually every student on campus can receive tutoring in virtually every subject.

The Academic Center is open from Monday to Thursday between the hours of 9 AM and 7 PM. On Fridays, the hours are 9 AM to 3 PM. It is even open now on Saturdays from 10 AM to 3 PM.

Whereas the old Writing Center, as its name indicated, was primarily to assist students in improving their writing, the new Academic Center has branched out and services all academic disciplines.

Math, statistics, chemistry, accounting, Spanish—tutors are available in all these subjects.

Accounting tutoring takes place on Mondays and Wednesdays from 1 PM to 4 PM and tutoring in other subjects not listed above is available



Term paper help in the Academic Center

by appointment.

Help is available not only to Arts and Sciences students, but to Professional and Graduate students as well.

The administrative and tutoring staff of the Academic Center is made up of teachers, students and experienced professionals in some areas. For example, one of the writing tutors in Siobhan Bowler, who has a strong background in editing and Katy McLaughlin who is a writer for *The Wall Street Journal*.

Another tutor, Malik Williams, has a background in writing for the music industry. SJC faculty members Karyn Pilgrim and Dr. Dorothy King are also at the center to help students.

Other tutors include Edward Harewood and Karen Williams of the SJC faculty, and senior Gurgit Singh, all of whom help in chemis-

try and mathematics.

In Spanish, faculty member Maria Montoya and Katy McLaughlin are the tutors.

"The new academic center provides a crucial support system for all SJC students," said Ms. Janine Latham, Director of the Academic Center. "It is a place where students from A & S and PGS can seek help and assistance in many subjects," she added.

To meet the growing need of an increased student population, Ms. Latham hopes to be able to keep the Academic Center open for some hours on Sundays and later in the evenings a few days a week.

"I hope that all SJC students will build the Academic Center into their studying routine so that it becomes part of their work regimen," said Ms. Latham.

SJC Jazz and Choral Societies Featured in Concert

By Shifat Noor

The weather is cold, the leaves are gone and winter is settling in. That means it's time for another concert by the SJC Jazz Ensemble and the SJC Choral Society.

For the first time, the Jazz Ensemble and the Choral Society will be performing on equal footings in the Music Department's presentation of the Winter Jazz Concert.

Scheduled for Thursday, December 7 during common hour in the Tuohy Hall auditorium, the show will be repeated at 7 PM on the same day.

"Because of the success of last spring's 'Jazz Me All Night Long,' we thought we should bring back the same feel for the winter concert," said Amanda Gavigan, vice president of the Choral Society and tenor saxophonist in the Jazz Ensemble.

Each year, the SJC Jazz Ensemble grows both in size and repertoire. Currently, the group boasts 11 members that include saxophones, brass

and rhythm instruments.

The band will play a total of twelve songs which include "Equinox," "Jingle Bells," "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," and "Such Great Heights."

The Winter Concert is not only an entertainment event, but it is also a chance to donate to deserving charities. The Jazz Ensemble will be holding a canned goods drive the week prior to and the week of the show. All cans will be donated to local parishes in need of food for the homeless.

The Choral Society will be donating its share of the proceeds to Equity-Broadway Cares, an AIDS charity.

The founder of the SJC Jazz Ensemble is junior John Castaldo. A saxophonist and arranger, John's goal in founding the group was to have the chance to play music of the great big bands of the Swing Era.

"Each year I hope that the freshman class will have a lot of players

who want to join. Slowly, we have grown in size but we are still missing key pieces like trombones. Hopefully by the time I graduate, I will stand in front of a real big band," said Castaldo.

The moderator of the Jazz Ensemble is Professor Leon Bernardyn of the Brooklyn campus.

"The Winter Concert is symbolic of the massive success that the Music Department has had in the last two years, largely due to the pioneering Jazz Ensemble," said Professor Bernardyn. "The show presents a unified music program, something that was thought to be impossible two years ago, and more importantly, it helps to solidify the presence of the department of the Brooklyn campus," he added.

Seasonal music, jazz and some great singing—all of which will be on display at the Second Annual Winter Music Concert.



SJC Jazz Ensemble practices for concert

RE M I N D E R !
Final Examinations
December 13-19

Midday Madness Opens Hoop Seasons

By Marsha Desrosiers

There's nothing like a good old-fashioned pep rally to get the juices flowing on a college campus, and that must explain the popularity of Mid-Day Madness at St. Joe's.

Patterned after Midnight Madness—a campus-wide extravaganza at major Division I colleges and universities, at which time the members of the varsity basketball teams are introduced, the same happens at St. Joe's—but during Common Hour rather than at midnight.

Midday Madness took place this year on Thursday, November 9th during Common Hour. It is the brainchild of St. Joe's Athletic Director Frank Carbone.

"Since we are mostly a commuter school, we really can't hold events at midnight, so we moved it to midday and it has proven to be a great success here for the last nine years," said Coach Carbone.

Midday Madness took place in Tuohy Hall on the basketball court in the lower level. During the course

of the event, the members of the Mens and Womens Basketball teams were introduced.

The teams were then showcased in a mini-practice demonstrating shooting, passing, dribbling and overall playmaking skills.

The Dance Team and the Step Team were also on hand to demonstrate some of the routines they will be performing at home games during the season.

The event was planned by Coach Carbone, the staff of the Athletic Department and the players themselves. Spirit-raising and entertainment were the chief goals of the day.

"Midday Madness is a great way for us to not only kick off the season, but to get the student body involved in sports," said Coach Carbone. "Hopefully, everyone who came to Midday Madness will come to our home games as well," he added.

Neither was Midday Madness only about sports. There was a DJ on hand to provide music, food was served and

there were games and raffles for all the spectators who attended.

Each year, about 150 students and faculty members attend Midday Madness, but Coach Carbone believed this year's turnout was the largest to date.

"I know the whole team is looking forward to big crowds at home games," said basketball team member Ervin Maddox. "It pumps you up and you get inspiration from their support," he added.

There was no charge for attending Midday Madness and all members of the St. Joseph's College community were invited to attend.

Midday Madness has proven to be one of the major events on the fall calendar at the college, and this year was no exception.

"This is my first year at St. Joe's," said freshman Nick Souleotis, "and I thought the whole event was a lot of fun," he added.

The varsity basketball seasons have now begun, and the tradition of Midday Madness at St. Joseph's once again heralded that beginning.

MOMENTS OF MADNESS



Kaitlin O'Neill introduced to the crowd



Participants in Midday Madness



The Royal Steppers prepare for their routine



Students in the Tennis Ball Raffle

Yearbook Staff Holds First 'Ad Day'

By Lori Bastien

Make no mistakes about it: yearbooks are expensive propositions for schools to publish, whether on the high school or college level.

Any source of income is a great help to deferring the overall publication costs, and so the staff of *Footprints 2007*, St. Joseph's yearbook, held Senior Ad Day on Thursday, November 16, 2006.

Setting up a table in the new reception area, the staff spent the day distributing advertising letters and forms to all seniors, inviting their parents and friends to take out ads congratulating them on their graduation.

"We think that these ads are a

great part of the book," said Director of Student Publications Dr. Howard Weiner. "Personal dedications and sentiments are the types of things seniors will look back upon in years to come with great warmth and nostalgia," he added.

"We would like to increase that amount substantially," said *Footprints 2007* editor-in-chief Ashley Pucciarelli. "I think it would be great if every senior had an ad from family or friends," she added.

The cost of the ads varies with the size of the ad purchased. They range from full page ads for \$180 to eighth page ads for \$25.

"A great thing about our ad section,"

said editor in chief Tara Vafiadou, "is that like the rest of the book, the whole section is in color, so it really allows for some impressive pages."

Full color photographs can also be incorporated into ads of most sizes.

Dr. Weiner points out that though most ads are purchased by seniors, it is not uncommon for clubs and organizations to take out ads for senior members. He also says that underclassmen frequently take out ads in honor of their senior friends.

The deadline for all ads is February 27, 2007 and ad copy may be turned in at the Publications Office in Room 607, St. Angela Hall.



The Culture Vulture

By Nick Souleotis

BROADWAY SEASON ON FIRE

This is a very special time on Broadway as the new theater season commences. The stars are out and shining on the Great White Way and they are lighting up the theater district with their presence.

Philip Bosco, Swoosie Kurtz, Usher, Huey Lewis and Nathan Lane are just a few of the big names that will be featured in this season's major productions.

George Bernard Shaw's *Heartbreak House* got a much-deserved revival on Broadway on October 11 in a new Roundabout Theatre Company production. It stars Philip Bosco, Swoosie Kurtz, Byron Jennings, Lily Rabe and Laila Robins.

The public knows Philip Bosco best from his recent roles in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* and *Twelve Angry Men*. His work in both shows gained stellar reviews from New York critics.

Swoosie Kurtz was last seen in *Frozen* and Lily Rabe, daughter of the legendary Meryl Streep was recently in the revival run of *Steel Magnolias*.

The Shaw chestnut can be seen at the new American Airlines Theater.

The cast of *Chicago* will be getting some changes this season. Usher, who performed the role of Billy Flynn from August through November, will be replaced by one-time rocker Huey Lewis. This will be Lewis' second run as the cynical Billy, a role originally created by Broadway immortal Jerry Orbach.

Nathan Lane, sans his frequent performing partner Matthew Broderick comes to Broadway this fall in a revival of *Butley*.

Lane, most recently seen with Broderick in a revival of Neil Simon's *The Odd Couple*, also appeared with him in the now-legendary Mel Brooks opus, *The Producers*.

But this time Lane goes it alone. As the star of such vehicles as

The Birdcage on film with Robin Williams, and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, Lane brings an extensive Broadway resume to *Butley*.

Audiences still have the chance to catch Martin Short's *Fame Becomes Me* at the Jacobs Theater. A rich combination of music, comedy and Short's one-of-a-kind multiple persona tour-de-force, the show has put up big numbers in its limited engagement.

Moving into *Wicked* at the Gershwin Theater this season will be Ana Gasteyer, who created the role of Elphaba for the Chicago road company production.

Also joining the cast of *Wicked* will be TV's own Carol Kane, best known for her long run in *Taxi*, and David Garrison, best known for the Bundy's neighbor on *Married With Children*. Both performers have signed on through January with the show.

October 5th saw the long-awaited revival of *A Chorus Line* hit the boards at the Gerald Schoenfeld Theater. This is the first revival of *A Chorus Line* since it set the Broadway longevity record of over 6000 performances—a record now eclipsed by shows like *Les Miz*, *Cats*, and *Phantom of the Opera*.

Starring as Cassie, the role created by Donna McKechnie, is Charlotte d'Amboise who just completed a run in Broadway's *Chicago*.

Ms. d'Amboise brings a long pedigree of dance with her. She is the daughter of ballet master and teacher Jaques d'Amboise, and her dancing is both graceful and athletic.

So it's an exciting season on Broadway with revivals outnumbering new productions almost 2 to 1. Hopefully the spring will see an influx of innovative and brand new shows with a broad appeal for New York audiences.



Senior grabs ad forms on Senior Ad Day



THE TECH HEAD

BY ROBERT MARRIELLO

THE LOWDOWN ON FLASH DRIVES

Greetings everyone! If you are wondering where your old friend, the Gamesman, is, well—he's right here!

"The Tech Head" is my new column in *The Spirit* and I hope you are going to enjoy it.

To explain what it will be about, I want you to think of the movie, *Serenity*. In that film, there is a man known as Mr. Universe, a man whose sole self-appointed duty is to provide the truth of signal to everyone, since he believed that the news was just a puppet of the media. As such, it showed only what the ruling government wanted people to learn and know.

So I've set out on my own crusade: to provide the truth about technology to my readers. Using a variety of sources, I will bring you the real news about technology available to you and what its ramifications are.

To begin with, I want to deal with the subject of Flash Drives.

Numerous people have a good idea how to use Flash Drives, but there are people out there that have no clue how they work.

First of all, the Flash Drive works in a similar fashion to the old floppy disc CD and hard drive—except that the Flash Drive works with the combined technologies of those three storage devices.

They can store large amounts of data, but it is necessary to eject them so they don't get ruined. Fortunately, most computers (certainly the ones at St. Joseph's College), have a small rectangular icon with a green arrow over it that when clicked on, will give you the option to eject it by clicking on the drive icon and pressing the 'Stop' button.

Also, similar to floppy discs, adding data to a Flash Drive is a simple drag and drop action, just like moving files from one folder to another.

The only two decisions you need to make when you purchase a

Flash Drive is which company's product you want to use, and how much memory it has.

The company you buy it from is generally inconsequential, although there are some companies like SanDisk, whose Flash Drives have programs on them for the user to use, such as data synching, secured password storage, and a small anti-virus program. But most companies give you the option to remove these programs if you want more space.

So that leaves a question of storage space on your Flash Drive. For the most part, you will need to worry about the memory size which ranges from 64MB for storing the occasional paper or two, to anywhere as high as 12GB which can hold papers, presentations, music, pictures and half the Library of Congress.

Just kidding—but you can even hold an occasional program on these big Flash Drives.

There are online sites where you can download programs for your Flash Drive. Usually they are stripped down versions of programs to be stored in a small amount of memory, or new versions of programs designed to work similarly to certain programs.

These are generally helpful when traveling from computer to computer and you have no clue what will be on the next computer you sit down at.

Typical programs for Flash Drives might be productivity programs such as word document programs, or recreational programs such as portable solitaire or Sudoku for those who like to game.

Okay, now for my monthly feature, Fact or Fake. (1) Windows is considered to be a more logical and rational or Left Brain program than Macs, which are more artistic, creative or Right Brain based programs. The answer will be in the next issue!

So, until next month, this is your Tech Head logging off!

Campus Ministry/Child Study Club Ready Tags for Christmas

'Giving Tree' Ornaments Major Part of Holiday Fest

By Gurgit Singh

'Tis the season—and at St. Joe's, the season starts very early—October 26th, as a matter of fact.

On that day, Campus Ministry and Outreach along with members of the Child Study Club hosted a "tag making" party in the auditorium of Tuohy Hall during common hour.

The purpose of the party was to gather a group of students together to design and create tags for the Giving Tree.

The Giving Tree is a Christmas tree that is traditionally placed in Tuohy Hall. In past years, it has been erected in the main hallway, but this year it may be placed either in the Student Life Center by the fireplace or in the new entrance and reception

area of Tuohy Hall.

The tags, made of oak tag and construction paper, are all decorated with Christmas and seasonal themes, but the key to the Giving Tree is what is on those tags.

Each one bears an inscription of some item of clothing or the name of a toy or some other necessity that is needed by a particular family. Any member of the St. Joseph's College community can take a tag from the tree, purchase the item, bring the item back and then it is given to the family in need.

The recipients of these gifts are the fifteen families who live in Providence House, a shelter located in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn.

S. Susan Wilcox, campus minister and moderator of Campus Ministry and Outreach said that the number of gifts that they expect to collect this year is approximately 135. Students, faculty and staff members are the main sources for the many contributions.

"I found the Tag-Making Party very rewarding," said Charnelle Campbell. "It was for a good cause since it was for those less fortunate than we are," she added.

The Giving Tree will be put up on November 20th, right before the beginning of the Thanksgiving break.

Collection of gifts will begin the day school recommences on November 27th.

The Giving Tree gift drive will continue through December 11th and it is anticipated that all gifts will be delivered to Providence House by December 15th.

"Tag-making was all about getting the St. Joseph's community to participate in an activity for the less fortunate," said Yolanda McDonald, president of Campus ministry.

S. Susan requests that all gifts be brought in unwrapped. Every attempt is made to make sure that the families at Providence House get gift packages of equal monetary value.

"The Tag Making Party got me into the spirit of the season and prepared me for the holidays," said junior Gina Khan, who was participating in her third Tag Making party.

The Giving Tree has been a St. Joseph's College tradition for many years and it illustrates the point that giving and charitable works at St. Joe's is not a seasonal activity; it is an *all* seasonal activity.



S. Susan Wilcox helps to make Christmas tags

Office of Student Life Publishes Posting Policy

Clubs to be Monitored in Publicizing Events

By Gurgit Singh

Ask someone involved in student activities and they will tell you that the key to a successful event is advertising and publicity.

But there is such a thing as overkill in advertising, and the Office of Student Life has taken steps to insure that each group can publicize its activity while still maintaining the college's aesthetic integrity.

A "Posting Policy" has been established at the college which every club and activity member should be aware of. Some of the major points in this policy need dissemination so all members of the extracurricular community can be up to date on the rules.

To begin with, nothing may be posted in the college without the stamp of approval from the Office of Student Life. According to Jamie Vacca-Hoefner, Assistant to the Director of Student Life, "this is a way of making sure that ev-

erything on a flyer or poster is spelled correctly and that nothing inappropriate is posted in the school."

Flyers may only be posted on bulletin boards in the various campus buildings, and they must be affixed to these boards only with push pins. No tape or staples are permitted.

No flyers or posters may ever be put on walls. The masking or scotch tape that is used pulls the paint right off the walls.

Students may not advertise outside organizations, vendors or companies without the express review and approval of the Office of Student Life. This includes advertising typing services or tutoring.

Within 48 hours of an event, all flyers *must* be removed by members of the organization to make room for other groups that need the space.

There are strong restrictions about the posting of any mate-

rial in unauthorized places such as outside the college on trees, lamp-posts, gates or fences or on cars. It is forbidden to place advertising flyers on glass doors or windows throughout the college.

At no time, may any advertising for the sale, use or availability of alcoholic beverages be permitted anywhere on the campus.

"Sometimes I have to go through flyers that are a month old to find out what's happening on campus," said sophomore Lori Bastien. "If everyone follows the policy, it will much easier and much neater," she added.

The full Posting Policy Statement is available in the Office of Student Life in Tuohy Hall. All club presidents, officers, and moderators are encouraged to review the policy with their membership and abide by the rules for the good and welfare of the entire college community.



Student Life tackles bulletin board clutter

Murder Mystery Night Hits it Big With Audience

By Rhomesia Ramkellowan

A late night talk show. A murder. A mystery. And a four course meal??

These were the tasty ingredients for a night of fun on November 9th, as the Student Government presented its annual Murder Mystery Dinner.

This year's show was entitled, "Murder on the Late Night Show" and it was written and directed by CAB Chairman, Adam Mace.

As his writing debut, the show was, in Mr. Mace's words, "both exciting and nerve-wracking." Because he is a big fan of late night talk shows, he decided to use that as the backdrop for his murder mystery.

One technique that the show used was the act of 'breaking the fourth wall.' That is to say, the performers interacted directly with the audience, unlike most plays, where the stage action is completely unaware of the fact that anyone is present in the theatre.

"Writing the show enabled me to be free with the script and to model characters to the actors," said Mr. Mace.

This year's cast included Mike Barthelemy, Tom Brown, Anthony Catalanotti, Schaeffer Charles, Chrissy Contessa, Amanda Gavigan, Andrea Rosado and Victoria Sorrisio. Qi Bin Li served as house manager and the Lighting Designer was Christopher Burke.

"Adam gave a lot of freedom to his actors and he knows what he wants as a writer," said Tom Brown

on having Adam Mace as both his writer and director.

The plot involved talk show host Bruce Kent (Schaeffer Charles) who was celebrating his 10th full year on the air. To commence the celebration, the production staff of the show treats the audience to a four course meal.

Because of his know-it-all personality, Bruce has lost his band and his guests for the show and so he must dig deep to find replacements. Producer Myra West (Victoria Sorrisio) has managed to book actor Rick Champion (Tom Brown), Broadway star Jill Jackson (Amanda Gavigan) and the State Spelling Bee Champion Wendy Jacobs (Andrea Rosado) to share the couch with him.

For music, Cameron Jones (Anthony Catalanotti) has no choice but to rely on a CD of Television Theme Songs which includes everything from *Full House* to *The Beverly Hillbillies*.

As the play spun out, cast members (in their roles in the show) circulated through the audience, making sure the 'guests' were enjoying their meals and Tom Brown (Rick Champion) graciously singed autographs for the audience.

A riotously funny Andrea Rosado as Wendy Jacobs went from table to table showing off her talent for spelling...S-P-E-L-L-I-N-G...spelling!

Of course, there can't be a murder mystery without a murder, so the plot is propelled by the murder of the vain and overbearing Bruce Kent.

Since the audience was given copies of a clue left in Bruce Kent's jacket, they used the opportunity to ask the characters questions about the murder in order to guess who killed the talk show host.

One of the funniest bits in the show occurred when Bruce Kent has to fill a time slot on the show, so he comes up with the first ever Salad Eating Contest on national TV. He pulled audience members onto the stage to participate in the contest and the winner got an autographed photo of him.

The audience even had the chance to participate in a 50-50 raffle as part of the show (though the winning table got to keep the proceeds!).

"It's a lot of fun to interact with the audience," said Tom Brown.

So whodunit? Not who you think. No, it wasn't any of the major stars, but rather the Camera Girl (Chrissy Contessa) who had a long time obsession with Bruce Kent. Her unrequited love was paid back with homicide. All in good fun, of course.

Coffee, desserts, post-performance interaction with the audience, and an evening of mirth and mystery drew to a close.

The annual foray into theatrics by the student government is a tradition that dates back to the year 2000. The performers, some with little or no acting experience at all, nevertheless get into the spirit of the evening and offer the audience as a seasonal gift, an evening of dinner and entertainment.



The spelling Bee champmeets the talk show host



The audience takes part in the show's 'raffle'



The body in question – played by Schaeffer Charles

Multi-Club Mixer Earns Kudos

By Jaclyn Collins

Clubbing—it's cool, it's fun, it's a way to meet people—and it's expensive. For young people who are underage, it's also illegal to purchase alcohol at clubs. So how do you provide the 'club experience' without all the hassles of going clubbing?

One solution was in evidence on Friday, November 10th at the "Multi-Club Mixer" held in the Tuohy Hall auditorium from 9 PM to 2 AM.

St. Joseph's College held its first "Multi-Club Mixer" hosted by the Fashion Club, the Student Ambassadors Club, the Caribbean Club and the Royal Steppers.

As in most clubs, the early part of the evening was a bit slow, but by 10:30 PM, there was a crowd lined up outside of the entrance to Tuohy Hall, ready to dance and shortly thereafter, the dance floor was jam packed.

Music was provided by St. Joseph's own Mike Barthelemy, AKA, "DJ Royal" who provided a wide variety of sounds which typify the New York City club scene.

The admission cost was \$3 for St. Joseph's students and \$5 for their guests. All profits from the event were earmarked for St. Jude's Children's Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee.

The fact that the evening was planned as a fund-raiser for a good

cause was part of the draw for students who otherwise would not choose to attend a college dance.

"I really hope this turns out well," said sophomore Bruno Espinoza. "It's going towards a good cause and it seems like a fun and new way to raise money. Everyone does a bake sale and things like that, but it's nice to see how much planning went into this event," he added.

As St. Joe's opened its doors for the event to outsiders, the response was extremely positive. "This is really a beautiful campus," said St. Francis College freshman Teresa Mastrogiulio. "All the people here are very sweet and cooperative. The mixer is a really great idea to hang out with people and still help out a good cause. I'm really glad I got to see all this," she added.

The "Multi-Club Mixer" is one of several campus activities held during the 2006-07 school year that will benefit St. Jude's. The Fall Fashion Show and Up 'til Dawn are two others that will raise money for the hospital, founded by entertainer Danny Thomas, that treats children with catastrophic diseases at no cost to their families.

Will the success of the fall Multi-Club Mixer mean that college dances are experiencing a renaissance? Based upon the attendance at the first one, it just could be the beginning of a trend.

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY By the SJC Historical Society

225 Years Ago (1781)

General Cornwallis of the British Army surrenders to the joint American and French forces at the Battle of Yorktown, thus ending the American Revolution.

215 Years Ago (1791)

The Bill of Rights (the first ten amendments to the United States Constitution), was finally ratified.

122 Years Ago (1884)

The Washington Monument was completed. Paid for exclusively by individual contributions, the monument is, by law, the tallest building permitted in Washington D.C.

120 Years Ago (1886)

The Statue of Liberty, a gift of the people of France to the United States, is dedicated in New York Harbor by President Grover Cleveland.

77 Years Ago (1929)

The New York Stock Exchange 'crashes' followed by exchanges throughout the world, ushering in the Great Depression.

67 Years Ago (1939)

The film of *Gone With the Wind* opened in Atlanta, Georgia, scene of one of the major episodes in Margaret Mitchell's novel of the American Civil War.

65 Years Ago (1941)

Mount Rushmore is completed in South Dakota after its construction began in 1927. The American icon, begun by Gutzen Borglum and completed by his son Lincoln, depicts Washington, Lincoln, Jefferson and Theodore Roosevelt carved out of a mountainside.

60 Years Ago (1945)

The Nuremberg War Crime Tribunals opened, trying the highest members of the Nazi hierarchy responsible for 'crimes against humanity' during World War II.

42 Years Ago (1964)

The People's Republic of China detonated its first nuclear bomb, making its entry into the community of nuclear nations.

41 Years Ago (1965)

Pope Paul VI becomes the first Pontiff to visit the United States. He addresses the United Nations and delivers a mass at Yankee Stadium.

36 Years Ago (1970)

Singer Janis Joplin is found dead of a heroine overdose. She became yet another rock singer/performer to succumb to drugs.

11 Years Ago (1995)

Former football star O.J. Simpson is acquitted of the murders of Nicole Brown-Simpson and her male friend.

FINALS ARE COMING!
Need Help?
Come to the Academic Center
Room 306 McEntegart Hall

THE INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

What is the best part of the holiday season?



The most important thing to me about the holiday is being charitable and remembering those less fortunate than we are.

—Valerie Singh



To me, the most important part of the holidays is spending time with my family.

—Brandon Haynes



Keeping the holidays is not just about gifts, but about the real meaning of the holiday, and spending time with my family.

—Kristin Prestino



The most important thing about the holiday is going on vacation and getting a break from school.

—Briana Manza



The most important thing about the holiday to me is food! Tons of excess food! Then, giving that food to others!

—Nicole Juliano



To me, it's seeing the happy faces on the faces of students at St. Joseph's, and getting a holiday break.

—Sammy Persaud



Being able to vacation with my friends is the most important thing about the holidays to me.

—Christina Contessa



I believe the most important things at the holidays and all year long are World Peace, Love and Harmony.

—Brendan Emmertz



For me, catching up with old friends from back in the day is the most important part of the holiday season.

—Tiffany Rivera



I think the most important part of the holiday is eating! It's also great to go out and spend time with my family.

—Jessica Pilinko



The most important thing about the holiday season is the extra time it gives you to catch up on work and prepare for the next semester.

—Silvia Durri



What could be better than being with your family and friends for the holidays?

—Marie Yves Guisment

Fashion Club Models Strut Their Stuff

By Ana Fernandez

Spring might bring Fashion Week to New York City, but it is the late fall that sees fashion take center stage at St. Joseph's College.

November 30th saw the stage in the auditorium of Tuohy Hall transformed into a virtual runway for a display of the latest hot fashions, all presented by St. Joseph's Fashion Club.

Originally founded as the 'Dress for Success Club' by Euphemia Misori '06, the former Fashion Editor for *The Spirit*, the club's intentions were not only to present fashion shows, but to instruct its members on the proper ways to dress both at school and in business situations.

The Fall Fashion Show let students and staff see the best ways to be trendy—without spending excessive money on brand name or designer clothing.

"We wanted the Fashion Club to bring forward the latest fashions and take them to the next level," said club member Carelle Cherebin.

The Fashion Club aims to train its membership for the next stage after college—the work world. "We teach our members to walk with confidence and project yourself in the most appealing manner possible,"

said Fashion Club president and senior, Denise West.

"We try to get students from different backgrounds to showcase the



Fashion Club model Kelvin Augustin

fashion trends for each season and to use this talent to help the less fortunate," said Ms. West.

Ms. West was alluding to the recipients of the proceeds of the Fashion Show, St. Jude's Children's Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee.

During the show, four different scenes were portrayed to display the fashion trends for the fall and winter seasons. The club worked closely with *B2Gear*, a clothing store near the St. Joseph's campus.

A DJ provided background music for the 'catwalk' as the student models strutted their stuff and special lighting effects added to the overall glamour of the event.

The models were chosen from club members and from other student volunteers. Though no modeling experience was needed, it took considerable training by some of the club members who had modeled before to teach the newcomers how to 'walk the walk.'

There are currently twenty members of the club and the group looks to increase its membership for the spring fashion show.

"The Fashion Club is definitely on the rise," said member Lindon Richards, and the reaction of the audience to the Fall Fashion Show indicated their appreciation of the club's artistic abilities and fashion sense.

Dance Club Showcased in Fall Recital

By Christina Ament

Mid-November on the St. Joseph's campus is International Week and one of the key events of a week of celebrating diversity is the annual recital by the Dance Club.

This year's show, entitled *Global Images*, was an exploration of cultural diversity and art as represented by the student body of the college.

The Dance Club, under the mentorship of Stacey Temple, and the Globespotters were the co-sponsors of the event.

The auditorium of Tuohy Hall was packed on Thursday, November 16th to see members of the Dance Club perform international dances that they had been rehearsing for months in the new dance studio in St. Angela Hall.

The program began with a number called "Indian Evenings" and featured the dance talents of MarieYves Guisment, Deva Ramlal, Gurgit Singh and Lawrence Morgan. The dance was a combination of traditional Indian music and a more contemporary (Bollywood) style. It was choreographed by Lawrence Morgan.

A solo number entitled "This One is for You" followed, danced by Jennifer Capellan.

A duet to "Where'd Ya Go" was next up on the program, danced by Brandon Emmertz and Christina Santamaria, with choreography by Brandon Emmertz.

A spirited Romanian Hora got the crowd into the international feel of the show and the members of the

Globespotters joined in the dance along with the audience.

Next up was a guest performance by the SJC Jazz Ensemble who performed a contemporary jazz tune entitled "Equinox."

The jazz ensemble, directed by John Castaldo, also performed "Autumn in New York" and "Stepping Out."

More dancing followed to songs such as "There is Safety in the House of the Lord" and "Tsmooth."

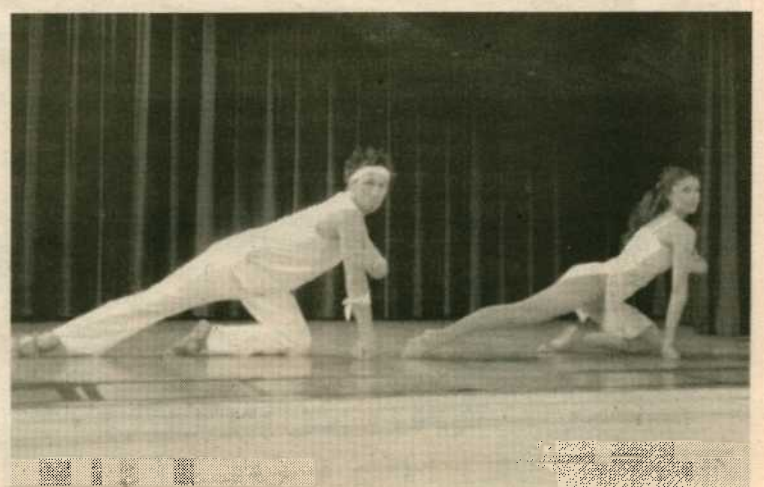
The final number on the program was presented by The SJC Royal Steppers, the college's new Step Team.

"This was a fantastic event," said freshman Adrian Midgley. "Some of us had never seen dances like this but we went out with a very positive attitude towards them," he added.

As a part of International Week, the dance recital in its variety of selections showed the cultural aspects of dance.

"The best way to understand culture is through art," said Stacey Temple, moderator of the Dance Club and chairman of the Council for the Arts. "We brought in someone to teach a Romanian dance an Indian dance, and of course, the Steppers have strong ties to African tradition," she said.

Even the food served before the recital was international in flavor. Greek, Chinese and Tai dishes were very popular with the crowd of 200+ students and staff who filled the auditorium in one of the biggest audiences in Dance Club history.



"Where'd Ya Go?" Danced by Brandon Emmertz and Chris Santamaria

ST. JOSEPH'S SPORTS



THE SPORTING LIFE

BY MARK WILSON

SOCCER FANS: REAL OR FAIR WEATHER?

Allow me to take your minds off of the cold weather and take you back to the warmth of this past summer.

After 9/11, there was a tremendous amount of American pride flowing through the veins of every citizen of the United States. It seemed as if there was a flag hanging in front of every home, an apple pie baking in every oven, and a baseball game being played on every street.

However, some time in the late spring and early summer, national pride took a backseat to World Cup Soccer.

Don't get me wrong: I'm not saying that people who like soccer are anti-American. I just think their motives behind watching the World Cup are far less innocent than merely a love of the game.

During World Cup time, more soccer fans emerge from the woodwork than Yankee fans during the late '90s. All of a sudden, people have a desire to talk about soccer. Why don't they talk about it throughout the year?

During the hiatus between World Cups, Major League Soccer can't even compete against the World Series of Poker or the World's Strongest Man competition for an audience.

You never hear anyone say, "Hey, anyone see that New York Red Bulls game last night?" (Oh, FYI, the Red Bulls are New York's MLS team).

Baseball fans talk incessantly about well, baseball—winter, spring, summer and fall. Football is banted about almost all year round.

So here's my question: if there are so many soccer fans out there, how come it takes the World Cup to bring them out?

I'll tell you why: To a select few World Cup viewers, the game isn't about the exciting play or watching their favorite sport. It's about something much more selfish: pure and simple *machismo*.

All around Brooklyn, there are Italian flags draped in windows and hung on flag poles. Yet, where is the U.S. flag? You may find it in the shadow of the Italian flags and you may not find it at all. Why? Maybe because the US World Cup team is looked upon as nothing more than a band of know-nothings playing a

predominantly European sport which they know little about.

The U.S. team is viewed as the helpless bug waiting to be squashed under the boot of mighty Italy. People wear those hideous Italian soccer jerseys in part because they root for Italy, but also because they don't want to be seen as fans of Team USA.

Some of the people who hang Italian flags, Brazilian flags and Russian flags outside their doors don't do so out of a true love for the game, but rather to immaturely flaunt their country's dominance. They might as well sit outside 24/7 and yell, "Na-Na-Na-Na-Na! We're better than you!"

A prime example of this childish obsession over *machismo* is seen in the 'fans' of Team Germany who started fires and raised havoc when their team lost in one of the innumerable rounds of World Cup play. The loss not only took away all of their bragging rights, but it also put their true strength and dominance in question. "See, we're still strong! Look! We can still burn stuff!"

Before I am categorized as a soccer hater, let me now mention the true victims in this World Cup debacle: the *true* fans. Nothing hurts a true fan more than a bandwagon fan. The true fan has been there, thick and thin, through good times and bad. Yet, it always appears as if the bandwagon fan is the one setting off fireworks and honking his car horn to remind the neighborhood that his team is still number one.

If you're going to flaunt your victories, you have to be able to cope with your losses. Let me see the true soccer fan that hangs his country's flag outside his home—win or lose.

Chris "Mad Dog" Russo from "The Mike and the Mad Dog" radio program put it best when he said he rooted for his team, Italy, but had no 'bond' with the team. It is evident that the fans we see flaunting Italian flags and blaring car horns may indeed root for Italy, but their true bond with the team is non-existent. Rather, it is their own narcissism that is on display.

Some of you may be wondering why write about soccer in December. For those who aren't wondering, this column is for you.

Volleyballers Pull Off Threepeat!

By Ervin Maddox

The talent was there, the heart was there—and surely the confidence was there. But did anyone really believe that the Lady Bears Volleyball team could really pull off a 'threepeat'—three conference championships in a row?

Late into the final game in the Hudson Valley Women's Athletic Conference Tournament Championship game, it became clear that indeed, St. Joe's was headed for the unprecedented, and the threepeat was in their hands.

Finishing the season with a 21-2 record, 9-0 in the conference, the Lady Bears brought home their third consecutive conference title. They were also invited to compete in their second consecutive United States Collegiate Athletic Association's National Tournament, which was held in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

The Lady Bears made it all the way to the Final Four before falling

to Rochester College of Michigan. But even that loss could not dim the achievements of both the team and the individual players.

It was the dominating play of Magdalena Wiecek that brought St. Joe's to the finals of the HVWAC tourney. She was selected as a member of the USCAA's All-American team and she also received All-Conference honors for the third consecutive season.

Another key player for the Lady Bears was Marzena Stadnicka, who was named the tournament's MVP for her crucial playmaking against Medgar Evers, St. Elizabeth's and Mount St. Vincent's.

National Honorable Mention All-American Svetlana Medvedeva and Tamara Bulatovic were also named to the All-Conference Team.

The statistics amassed by the team leaders on the championship squad were remarkable. Magdalena Wiecek

recorded 367 kills over the season for an average of 5.32 kills per game.

Marzena Stadnicka had 62 aces, followed closely by Tamara Bulatovic's 59.

Bala Huseinovic by far outpaced the team in digs, totaling 240 for the season and averaging 3.24 per game. Jaime Mascetti totaled an eye-popping 782 assists on the year!

Additionally, Huseinovic led the team in 6 separate offensive categories.

One of the most amazing statistics of the year is that the Lady Bears were absolutely perfect in conference play. They went 27-0 in games as their juggernaut rolled over the rest of the divisional teams.

The Lady Bears Volleyball team had only 4 juniors and 6 sophomores on it—and they have now all played together for at least two years.

It doesn't bode very well for the HVWAC for the 2007 season. Did someone say "Fourpeat?"



Annamarie Ciorciari on a forehand return



Another big point for All-American Magdalena Wiecek

Tennis Team Closes Out Third Season

By Christina Ament

The season is long, hard, and extremely competitive, all the more so for a relatively new team. These are some of the obstacles faced by the Women's Tennis team during the 2006 varsity season.

Only three years old, the Lady Bears find themselves thrust into the midst of Hudson Valley Women's Athletic Conference play against far more experienced and seasoned teams.

The results for the season were, therefore, not overly surprising: a 3-6 record.

Coached by Walter Sanchez and Assistant Coach Christine Chang-Tang, what began as a club has been transformed into a strong, unified official college team of seven members.

Juniors Annamarie Ciorciari, Tara Deahn, Nicole Larkin and Svetlana Medvedeva, sophomores Danielle Kramer and Elaine Lupenowicz and freshman Jessica Lintner make up the

Lady Cougar squad.

New to the team this year was Assistant Coach Chang-Tang, who has had major playing experience at Division III school Penn State Behrend. This is her first year of coaching.

One of the extraordinary features of the team as that they were able to compete with the experience-level that they brought to their game.

"We even had players that never played before come out, learn the sport, play—and sometimes win," said the coach.

One of the goals for next season is to increase the size of the team. Though there were seven players this year, any given conference match requires a total of six, so there was only one bench player. A large talent pool would provide bench strength, and the coaches are committed to finding those players before next season begins.

Coach Sanchez and Coach

Chang-Tang have already begun the recruiting process for next year. Any current St. Joe's student or future student who is interested in tennis is encouraged to contact Coach Chang-Tang at ctang@sjcnv.edu. She welcomes students, no matter what their skill level.

The season started in the first week of September and ended in the last week of October with matches against such conference rivals as Brooklyn College, CSI, Pratt Institute and Mount Saint Vincent's.

The team practices and plays their home games at the legendary New York City venue, the National Tennis Center in Flushing, Queens, which, according to the coach, is an experience in itself. "The team gets to play where the stars play," she said.

Next year, with the entire squad returning intact, could be a very different story for Lady Bears' Tennis.

**COME AND SUPPORT
ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE
BASKETBALL!**